

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
12:30 p.m.: Morning Hour 2:00 p.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	7:00 p.m.

**** DEMOCRATS ARE URGED TO SIGN THE LEE-SANDERS-CAPUANO DISCHARGE PETITION (#11) TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (9 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 4459** – Llagas Reclamation Groundwater Remediation Initiative (*Rep. Pombo – Resources*)
- 2) **H.R. 1658** – Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act of 2003 (*Rep. Pombo – Resources*)
- 3) **H.R. 2663** – To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit of the National Park System (*Rep. Christensen – Resources*)
- 4) **H.R. 2966** – Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2004 (*Rep. Radanovich – Resources*)
- 5) **H.R. 3334** – Riverside-Corona Feeder Authorization Act (*Rep. Calvert – Resources*)
- 6) **H.R. 3257** – Western Reserve Heritage Areas Study Act (*Rep. Ryan {OH} – Resources*)
- 7) **H.R. 3632** – Anti-Counterfeiting Amendments of 2003 (*Rep. Smith {TX} – Judiciary*)
- 8) **S. 1301** - Video Voyeurism Prevention Act of 2003 (*Sen. DeWine / Judiciary Committee*)
- 9) **S.J.Res. 41** – Commemorating the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian (*Sen. Campbell – House Administration*)

H.R. 5025 – Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY05 (Rep. Istook – Appropriations) (Unanimous Consideration / Complete Consideration).

This bill, as reported by the committee on September 8th, provided \$89.9 billion including: \$58.8 billion for the Transportation Department; \$11.22 billion for the Treasury Department (\$10.29 billion for the Internal Revenue Service); \$727 million for the Executive Office of the President; \$18.22 billion for the Office of Personnel Management; and \$36.5 million for the U.S. Postal Service. However, during consideration of this bill on the House Floor last week, several portions of the bill were stricken on points of order. As a result, \$48 billion worth of funding for Transportation programs and State grants were deleted from the Committee reported bill. Critical programs stripped from the bill include: Federal highway grants to States; airport improvement grants to local communities; essential air service grants for rural airports; transit formula grants for States and funding for major capital investment projects; and highway traffic safety grants to States.

Today, the House will resume the amendment process under a unanimous consent agreement reached last Tuesday. That amendment makes in order the following amendments:

- **Davis (FL) Amendment (1 hour).** This amendment would prohibit the use of funds in the bill to enforce new restrictions on travel to Cuba for the purpose of visiting relatives. Under the new restrictions (put into effect June 30), individuals may visit their immediate relatives in Cuba once every three years for a maximum of 14 days (the new definition excludes aunts, uncles and cousins) and no emergency trips will be authorized for any reason.
- **Sanders Amendment (40 minutes).** This amendment would prohibit the use of funds to assist in overturning *Cooper v. IBM* --- on July 31, 2003, a federal court ruled that IBM’s cash balance pension plan violates federal anti-age discrimination law. This amendment would protect U.S. workers who have been negatively impacted by age-discrimination cash balance pension conversions. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**
- **Olver Amendment (30 minutes).** This amendment would prohibit the Secretary of Transportation and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) from spending federal funds to implement or enforce proposed regulations to exempt for 2 years from U.S. safety standards foreign-built trucks and buses that have previously entered the U. S.
- **Olver Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment would add \$286 million in funding for IRS compliance initiatives. These funds would be offset from the General Services Administration-Real Property Activities-Federal Buildings Funds.
- **Van Hollen Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment would prevent OMB from spending any funds to implement the A-76 rewrite changes that were finalized on May 29 regarding federal employees and contractors. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**

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- **Delahunt Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment would prohibit the use of funds in the bill to enforce limits on remittances that can be sent from the U.S. to Cuban nationals. This amendment would retain the restrictions that funds for remittances cannot come from a blocked source and that remittances cannot be sent to a prohibited member of the Cuban government or the Cuban Communist Party.
 - **Rangel Amendment (10 minutes).** This bill would prohibit the use of funds in the bill to implement, administer, or enforce the economic embargo on Cuba.
 - **Lee Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment would prohibit the use of funds in the bill to enforce new regulations issued in June that affect students who study abroad or seek other educational opportunities in Cuba.
 - **Waters Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment would prohibit the use of funds in this bill to implement any sanction imposed by the U.S. on private commercial sales of agricultural commodities, medicine or medical supplies to Cuba.
 - **Stenholm Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment would prohibit the Secretary of Treasury from using federal trust funds in order to circumvent the statutory debt limit. This amendment would prohibit the use of funds to issue or implement an order suspending investment in the Civil Service Retirement Trust Fund or Government Securities Investment Fund (TSP G Fund) or disinvesting assets of the Civil Service Retirement Trust Fund.
- Democrats are urged to VOTE YES.**
- **Norton Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment would prohibit the use of funds in the bill to enter into or renew any contract for a high-deductible health plan under the federal employees health benefit plan that does not require enrollees to remain enrolled in such plan for at least 3 consecutive years from the date of initial enrollment.

TOMORROW’S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House will consider seventeen bills under Suspension of the Rules and will also consider: **H.R. 2028 – Pledge Protection Act of 2004** (*Rep. Akin – Judiciary*) (*Subject to a Rule*).

Daily Quote...

“We’re in a lot of trouble [in Iraq]. . . . We’ve gotta be honest with ourselves. As I said yesterday, the worst thing we can do is hold ourselves hostage to some grand illusion that we’re winning. Right now, we’re not winning. . . . It isn’t good enough to just say, ‘Well, we just have stay the course.’”

- Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel (NE), at a news conference on Friday, 9/17/04